AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please replace the pending claims with the following listing of claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template slidably mounted [[on]] at the first end of the brace, the template being adapted to rest on a lateral or medial facet at a proximal end of the tibia, the template having a longitudinal axis, the template being movable ~~at the first end of~~ with respect to the brace ~~only in a linear manner~~ along the longitudinal axis between a posterior position and an anterior position ~~with respect to the brace~~; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of a proximal end of the tibia, the tubular guide sleeve also having a central longitudinal axis that intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location,

wherein the longitudinal axis of the template intersects the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve when the template is in the posterior position and when the template is in the anterior position, such that the angle formed between the longitudinal axis of the template and the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve is the same when the template is in the posterior position and when the template is in the anterior position.

2. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.

3. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate having a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.

4. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate and a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to catch against a posterior side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.

5. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template comprises a base plate and a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia.

6. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template is telescopically mounted to the first end of the brace.

7. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 6, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the first end of the brace.

8. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

9. **(Canceled)**

10. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of teeth are formed on the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve.

11. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and

a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly ~~for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein

~~a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;~~

~~a template mounted on the first end of the brace,~~ the template ~~comprising~~ comprises a base plate in the form of a low profile plate ~~being~~ that is adapted to rest on [[a]] the lateral or medial facet at the proximal end of the tibia, a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, and a projection extending from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a posterior, anterior, lateral, or medial side of the tibia when the base plate is mounted on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia; and

~~a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace,~~ wherein the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate ~~being~~ is wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

13. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the base plate has a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the lateral or ~~media~~ medial facet of the tibia.

15. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein the template is adjustably mounted to the first end of the brace.

16. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 15, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the first end of the brace.

17. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

18. **(Canceled)**

19. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, wherein ~~the tubular guide sleeve has a distal end,~~ a plurality of teeth ~~being~~ are formed on the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve.

20. **(Original)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 12, further comprising:
a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and
a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

21.-29. **(Canceled)**

30. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly ~~for forming a tunnel through an end of a bone, the guide assembly comprising:~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein

~~a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;~~

~~a template mounted on the first end of the brace,~~ the template ~~comprising~~ comprises a base plate in the form of a flattened plate ~~being~~ that is adapted to rest on a facet at the end of [[the]] a bone and a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate; and

~~a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end,~~ wherein the tubular guide sleeve ~~being~~ is adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the facet of the bone, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a side of the bone, the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate being wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

31. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the brace has a substantially U-shaped configuration.

32. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the base plate has a surface substantially complementary to at least a portion of the facet of the bone.

33. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template further comprises a projection extending from the base plate, the projection being positioned to catch against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone.

34. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template further comprises a projection extending from the base plate, the projection begin positioned to bias against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone.

35. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein the template is adjustably mounted to the brace.

36. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 35, further comprising markings formed on the template, the markings defining the position of the template relative to the brace.

37. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, further comprising a plurality of alternative templates each having a different configuration, the template being selected from the plurality of alternative templates.

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, wherein a plurality of teeth are formed on the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve.

40. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 30, further comprising:

a tubular drill sleeve slidably disposed within the tubular guide sleeve; and

a guide wire rotatably disposed within the tubular drill sleeve.

41. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly ~~for forming a tunnel through an end of a bone, the guide assembly comprising:~~ as recited in claim 1, wherein

~~a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;~~

~~a template mounted on the first end of the brace,~~ the template ~~comprising~~ comprises a base plate in the form of an enlarged plate ~~being~~ that is adapted to rest on a facet at the end of [[the]] a bone, a constricted stem projecting from the base plate, and a projection extending from the base plate, the constricted stem being coupled with the brace and having a transverse cross sectional width that is smaller than a transverse cross sectional width of the base plate, the projection being positioned to bias against a side of the bone when the base plate is mounted on the facet of the bone; and

~~a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace,~~ wherein the transverse cross-sectional width of the base plate ~~being~~ is wider than a transverse cross-sectional width of the tubular guide sleeve.

42. **(Canceled)**

43. **(Canceled)**

44. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the ~~linear~~ movement of the template is linear between the posterior position and the anterior position with respect to the brace ~~occurs~~ in a direction that is substantially parallel to the direction of the curve at the first end of the brace.

45. **(Previously Presented)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the template is telescopically mounted to the first end of the brace so as to extend away from the brace in the direction of the curve at the first end of the brace.

46. **(Currently Amended)** A guide assembly as recited in claim [[12]] 1, wherein the brace extends longitudinally between the first and second ends along a curve and wherein the template extends away from the brace so as to be aligned with the curve of the brace at the first end of the brace.

47. **(New)** A guide assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein the template extends between a first end and a spaced apart second end, the first end of the template being slidably mounted at the first end of the brace, and the longitudinal axis of the template extending longitudinally between the first and second ends.

48. **(New)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template slidably mounted at the first end of the brace, the template being adapted to rest on a lateral or medial facet at a proximal end of the tibia, the template having a central longitudinal axis, the template being movable with respect to the brace along the central longitudinal axis between a posterior position and an anterior position; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of a proximal end of the tibia, the tubular guide sleeve also having a central longitudinal axis that intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location,

wherein the central longitudinal axis of the template passes through both the first and second locations of the template such that the angle formed between the central longitudinal axis of the template and the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve is the same when the template is in the posterior position and when the template is in the anterior position.

49. **(New)** A guide assembly for forming a tunnel through a proximal end of a tibia comprising:

a brace having a first end and an opposing second end;

a template slidably mounted at the first end of the brace, the template being adapted to rest on a lateral or medial facet at a proximal end of the tibia, the template having a longitudinal axis, the template being movable with respect to the brace along the longitudinal axis between a posterior position and an anterior position; and

a tubular guide sleeve having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the tubular guide sleeve being adjustably mounted on the second end of the brace such that when the template is disposed on the lateral or medial facet of the tibia, the distal end of the tubular guide sleeve can be selectively biased against a lateral, medial, or anterior side of a proximal end of the tibia, the tubular guide sleeve also having a central longitudinal axis that intersects with a first location of the template when the template is in the posterior position and intersects with a second location of the template when the template is in the anterior position, the second location being spaced apart from the first location,

wherein the longitudinal axis of the template intersects the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve when the template is in the posterior position and when the template is in the anterior position, such that the angle formed between the template and the central longitudinal axis of the tubular guide sleeve is the same when the template is in the posterior position and when the template is in the anterior position.